

# Sale of 'Safe' ABMs to Allies Urged

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Anti-ballistic missiles for NATO nations could be booby-trapped to prevent them from being used as offensive weapons or going out of their assigned airspace, according to a developer of the hydrogen bomb.

Nuclear physicist Edward Teller said these safeguards would make it practical for the United States to sell its missile defense, planned to be built over the next five years at a cost estimated at \$5 billion, to its NATO allies.

He told members of the International Movement for Atlantic Union at a reception here Tuesday night that he would be glad to demonstrate such safeguards before any interested international authority.

The anti-ballistic missile (ABM), Teller said, could be rigged "so that anyone who started to take it apart with a screwdriver would get a lethal dose of radiation" as the warhead melted down into a useless mass.

While this would prevent recipient nations from changing a defensive missile into an offensive one, Teller said other



EDWARD TELLER  
... for 'safe' missiles

mechanisms would cause the warhead to blow itself up if it went beyond the assigned airspace.

This latter fail-safe device, he said, would limit NATO nations to defending their own airspace. Teller said it therefore would be safe to let allies control the nuclear warheads on their defensive missiles.

The United States retains control over the warheads it had stored in Europe for

NATO's offensive weapons—both bombers and missiles.

The U.S. missile defense—called Nike X—consists of radars, Spartan missiles with a range of more than 400 miles and Sprint missiles with a range of about 25 miles. The Spartan and Sprint missiles carry hydrogen bombs for neutralizing incoming warheads.

Johnson Administration leaders have stressed that the American defense is against Chinese, not Soviet, missiles. Their argument is that Russia could easily penetrate the planned U.S. missile defense.

The direct route for Chinese ICBMs targeted on the United States is over Russia, the North Pole and then Canada. But the kind of ICBMs China is expected to have early in the 1970s could hit NATO nations, although there is little evidence allied governments take the threat seriously.

There has been no public discussions among government officials here about offering the American ABM to NATO nations or other allies. The effort instead has been to reassure NATO that the ABM de-

cision need not provoke a new round in the U.S.-Soviet arms race.

But British, French and Italian officials—U.S. disclaimers notwithstanding—have criticized the ABM decision as provocative. They have also

expressed fear that the ABM decision may represent a step toward the "Fortress America" posture.